

OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS



Gunman kills at least 17 at Fla. high school — **News, 3A**



Auburn, Kentucky throw down in SEC matchup — **Sports, 1B**

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Southern Union President Search

Chancellor on new leader: ‘Maybe June’

BY KARA COLEMAN
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MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Community College System still has not named a permanent president for Southern Union State Community College, and Chancellor Jimmy Baker says it might not until summertime.



Baker

“So we’re talking, maybe June.”
The official job listing for

“It’s my plan — unless something derails my plan, but I don’t anticipate that — I’d like to have someone in office in time to plan the fall semester,” he said.

Southern Union’s president will be posted on the ACCS website today, a spokeswoman for the community college system said.

“We have to post for 30 days, so it’ll be at least 30 days after we post before we even start reviewing the applications,” Baker explained.

The community college system plans to release more details

about the presidential search today, but Baker said the school’s permanent president should be “a great leader.”

“I think that the school and that community, that should be a flagship school, in my opinion,” the chancellor said after Wednesday’s meeting of the ACCS board of trustees. “It should be a major school, and

the enrollment should be significantly different than it currently is.

“I’m looking for someone who can provide leadership, to grow the school, but at the same time, to improve the quality of what’s happening at the school. I’m not saying it’s bad now, but my

See **LEADER**, Page 6A

‘AND ALL THAT JAZZ ...’



PHOTOS BY EMILY ENFINGER/EEENFINGER@OANOW.COM

Meg McGuffin, as Velma Kelly, sings during a dress rehearsal Tuesday. Also pictured (from left) is Dylan Renfrow, Grant Lackey, Scott Tye, Bobby Coe, Connor Dealy and Hudson Hubbard.

AU group to perform ‘Chicago’

BY EMILY ENFINGER
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A musical tale of murders and trials will take over Telfair Peet Theatre’s main stage tonight for the opening performance of Auburn University’s rendition of “Chicago.”

“This particular production adds new life to the text and considers what these infamous characters have to say to a contemporary audience,” said production coordinator Taylor Dyleski. “Director Chris Qualls, choreographer Jeri Dickey, and musical director Elizabeth Benson and the entire creative and production team have created a show that pays homage to the many, many past productions, but speaks with a distinctive voice for our current moment.

“There is dancing and singing and comedic bits. Audiences can anticipate a delightful evening of song and dance with a satirical twist — a bit of commentary thrown in with the gin and jazz hands.”

The opening show will begin at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are available at \$16.

Admissions for Auburn faculty and staff, as well as non-Auburn University students and seniors, will be \$12. Auburn University students will be admitted for free.

The production will continue through Feb. 24.

For a complete list of showtimes, visit www.cla.auburn.edu/theatre.

After the Feb. 22 performance, the public is invited to stay for Talkback Thursday for discussion and to learn more about the play.



Logan Pace, as Amos Hart, sings during a dress rehearsal Tuesday.

Auburn

City changes downtown valet services

BY CARLA NELSON
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Changes to downtown Auburn valet parking days, hours and rates went into effect last week, based on a review of usage patterns since the launch of valet services in August 2017.

The new days and hours valet services will be offered are Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$1 per hour and complimentary from 5-10 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. will be complimentary.

Valet services will no longer be offered Sunday through Wednesday as valet services were not well utilized on those days.

See **VALET**, Page 6A

Bill aims to strike anti-gay phrase in state sex-ed law

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Alabama lawmakers on Wednesday took the first step to strike anti-gay language from the state’s sex education law that says students should be taught that homosexuality is both socially unacceptable and illegal.

Although sex education is optional in Alabama’s public schools, a 1992 law sets requirements for programs. The 1992 law says programs should encourage abstinence and put “an emphasis, in a factual manner and from a public health perspective, that homosexuality is not a lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual conduct is a criminal offense under the laws of this state.”



Whatley

The Senate Education Policy Committee voted Wednesday to delete that phrase. The bill now moves to the Alabama Senate.

“It clears up some of the language in the act right now that declares homosexuality a criminal offense. It also changes some of the language to be medically accurate,” said bill sponsor Sen. Tom Whatley, a Republican from Auburn.

See **PHRASE**, Page 6A



Index

CLASSIFIEDS6B
COMICS7A

CROSSWORD8A
LOCAL2A
LOTTERIES4B
NATION5A

OPINION4A
SCOREBOARD4B
SOUTHEAST3A
SPORTS1B

Weather

High: 74 Low: 61
Page 2A



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